

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5716

To promote water supply reliability and improved water management for rural communities, the State of California, and the Nation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 25, 2021

Mr. HARDER of California (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. MCNERNEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To promote water supply reliability and improved water management for rural communities, the State of California, and the Nation, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Securing Access for
5 the central Valley and Enhancing (SAVE) Water Re-
6 sources Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FUND.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
9 Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the

1 “Water Infrastructure and Drought Solutions Fund” (re-
2 ferred to in this section as the “Fund”), consisting of—

3 (1) such amounts as are deposited in the Fund
4 under subsection (b); and

5 (2) any interest earned on investment of
6 amounts in the Fund under subsection (c)(1)(B).

7 (b) DEPOSITS TO FUND.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years
9 2032 through 2062, the Secretary of the Treasury
10 shall deposit in the Fund \$750,000,000 of the reve-
11 nues that would otherwise be deposited for the fiscal
12 year in the reclamation fund established by the first
13 section of the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388,
14 chapter 1093), of which—

15 (A) \$250,000,000 shall be expended by the
16 Secretary of the Interior for new surface or
17 ground water storage projects provided that—

18 (i) expenditures are made for nonre-
19 imbursable public benefits under Federal
20 reclamation law (the Act of June 17, 1902
21 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093), and Acts
22 supplemental to and amendatory of that
23 Act); and

(ii) Federal expenditures account for no more than 50 percent of total costs for any project;

(B) \$250,000,000 shall be expended by the Secretary of the Interior for water reclamation and reuse projects authorized under title XVI of Public Law 102-575 and section 4009 of Public Law 114-322; and

(C) \$250,000,000 shall be expended by the Secretary of the Interior for WaterSMART grants authorized under the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 10364).

(2) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts deposited in the Fund under this section shall—

- (A) be made available in accordance with this section, without further appropriation; and
- (B) be in addition to amounts appropriated for such purposes under any other provision of law.

(c) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), for each of fiscal years 2032 through 2062, the respective Secretary may expend from the Fund, in ac-

1 cordance with this section, not more than an amount
2 equal to the sum of—

3 (A) the amounts deposited in the Fund
4 that year under subsection (b); and

5 (B) the amount of interest accrued in the
6 Fund for the fiscal year in which the expendi-
7 tures are made.

8 (2) ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may ex-
10 pend more in any fiscal year than the amounts
11 described in subsection (a) if the additional
12 amounts are available in the Fund as a result
13 of a failure of the Secretary to expend all of the
14 amounts available under subsection (a) in 1 or
15 more prior fiscal years.

16 (B) RETENTION IN ACCOUNTS.—Any addi-
17 tional amounts referred to in paragraph (1)
18 shall—

19 (i) accrue interest in accordance with
20 this section; and

21 (ii) only be expended for the purposes
22 for which expenditures from the Fund are
23 authorized.

24 **SEC. 3. GROUND WATER RECHARGE PLANNING.**

25 (a) FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.—

1 (1) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

2 (A) there is a lack of information regarding local ground water storage and recharge opportunities in the Western United States;

3 (B) additional information regarding local
4 ground water storage and recharge opportunities can help inform future Federal and State
5 funding activities and assist State government
6 initiatives such as implementation of part 2.74
7 of the California Water Code (commonly known
8 as the “Sustainable Groundwater Management
9 Act”); and

10 (C) challenges associated with drought and
11 extreme aridity from changing weather patterns
12 will require additional investment in ground
13 water storage and recharge.

14 (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is
15 to help inform future Federal, State, local, and other
16 investment in ground water recharge projects.

17 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) CRITICALLY OVERDRAFTED BASINS.—The
19 term “critically overdrafted basins” means those basins identified by the California Department of
20 Water Resources pursuant to part 2.74 of the California Water Code (commonly known as the “Calif-

1 fornia’s Sustainable Groundwater Management
2 Act”).

3 (2) RECLAMATION STATE.—The term “Recl-
4 amation State” means any Reclamation State (as
5 defined in section 4014 of the Water Infrastructure
6 Improvements for the Nation Act (Public Law 114-
7 322; 43 U.S.C. 390b note)).

8 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
9 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
10 rector of the United States Geological Survey.

11 (c) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after
13 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
14 shall complete an evaluation and report to Congress
15 that identifies potential ground water storage and
16 recharge opportunities in each Reclamation State in-
17 cluding recharge opportunities in critically over-
18 drafted basins.

19 (2) REPORT.—The report to Congress shall in-
20 clude—

21 (A) an assessment of potentially beneficial
22 storage and recharge locations based on the
23 Secretary’s assessment of—

- 24 (i) hydrologic attributes;
25 (ii) geologic attributes;

(vii) sustainability benefits for critically overdrafted basins; and

(B) an assessment of potential conveyance infrastructure needs to move excess runoff to the recharge locations identified by the Secretary under this section.

1 **SEC. 4. RECLAMATION INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND IN-**
2 **NOVATION PILOT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the
4 “Reclamation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation
5 Act”.

6 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior
7 (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall estab-
8 lish and carry out a pilot program under which the Sec-
9 retary shall provide to eligible entities described in section
10 5025 of the Water Resources Reform and Development
11 Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3904) financial assistance in ac-
12 cordance with this section to carry out eligible projects de-
13 scribed in subsection (c).

14 (c) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—A project eligible to receive
16 assistance under the pilot program under this sec-
17 tion is a water supply project that, as determined by
18 the Secretary—

19 (A) is located in—

20 (i) the State of Alaska;
21 (ii) the State of Hawaii; or
22 (iii) a Reclamation State (as defined
23 in section 4014 of the Water Infrastruc-
24 ture Improvements for the Nation Act
25 (Public Law 114–322; 43 U.S.C. 390b
26 note));

(B) would contribute directly or indirectly (including through ground water recharge) to a safe, adequate water supply for domestic, agricultural, environmental, municipal, or industrial use; and

(C) is otherwise eligible for assistance under this section.

16 (d) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The following entities are
17 eligible to receive assistance under this section:

18 (1) An entity described in section 5025 of the
19 Water Resources Reform and Development Act of
20 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3904).

(2) A conservancy district, reclamation district, or irrigation district.

23 (3) A canal company or mutual water company.

24 (4) A water users' association.

1 (5) An agency established by an interstate com-
2 pact.

3 (6) Any other individual or entity that has the
4 capacity to contract with the United States under
5 the reclamation laws.

6 (e) REQUIREMENTS.—

7 (1) PROJECT SELECTION.—In selecting eligible
8 projects to receive assistance under the pilot pro-
9 gram under this section, the Secretary shall ensure
10 diversity with respect to—

11 (A) project type; and
12 (B) geographical location within the States
13 referred to in subsection (c)(1).

14 (2) IMPORTATION OF OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—
15 The following shall apply to the pilot program under
16 this section:

17 (A) Sections 5022, 5024, 5027, 5028,
18 5029, 5030, 5031, 5032, and 5034(a) of the
19 Water Resources Reform and Development Act
20 of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3901, 3903, 3906, 3907,
21 3908, 3909, 3910, 3911, and 3913(a)), except
22 that—

23 (i) any reference contained in those
24 sections to the Secretary of the Army shall

1 be considered to be a reference to the Sec-
2 retary of the Interior;

3 (ii) any reference contained in those
4 sections to an eligible project shall be con-
5 sidered to be a reference to an eligible
6 project described in subsection (b);

7 (iii) paragraphs (1)(E) and (6)(B) of
8 subsection (a), and subsection (b)(3), of
9 section 5028 of that Act (33 U.S.C. 3907)
10 shall not apply with respect to this section;
11 and

12 (iv) subsections (e) and (f) of section
13 5030 of that Act (33 U.S.C. 3909) shall
14 not apply with respect to this section.

15 (B) The agreement between the Adminis-
16 trator of the Environmental Protection Agency
17 and the Commissioner of Reclamation required
18 under section 4301 of the America's Water In-
19 frastructure Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–
20 270).

21 (C) Other applicable environmental laws,
22 including the National Environmental Policy
23 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

24 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
2 appropriated to the Secretary to carry out the pilot
3 program under this section \$150,000,000 for fiscal
4 years 2022 through 2026, to remain available until
5 expended.

6 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Of the funds
7 made available under paragraph (1), the Secretary
8 may use for administrative costs of carrying out the
9 pilot program under this section (including for the
10 provision of technical assistance to project sponsors
11 pursuant to paragraph (3) and in obtaining nec-
12 essary approvals and transfer to the Administrator
13 of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide
14 assistance in administering and servicing Federal
15 credit instruments under the pilot program) not
16 more than \$5,000,000 for each applicable fiscal
17 year.

18 (3) SMALL COMMUNITY PROJECTS.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph
20 (B), the Commissioner may use the
21 funds made available under paragraph (2) to
22 provide assistance, including assistance to pay
23 the costs of acquiring the rating opinion letters
24 under section 5028(a)(1)(D) of the Water Re-
25 sources Reform and Development Act of 2014

(B) LIMITATION.—Assistance provided to a project sponsor under subparagraph (A) may not exceed an amount equal to 75 percent of the total administrative costs incurred by the project sponsor in securing financial assistance under this section.

14 (g) LIMITATION.—No project that receives financial
15 assistance under this section may be financed (directly or
16 indirectly), in whole or in part, with proceeds of any obli-
17 gation the interest on which is exempt from the tax im-
18 posed under chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of
19 1986.

20 (h) ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE.—

24 (A) A project for the reclamation and
25 reuse of municipal, industrial, domestic, and ag-

1 ricultural wastewater, and naturally impaired
2 ground water, which the Secretary, acting
3 through the Commissioner of Reclamation, is
4 authorized to undertake.

5 (B) Any water infrastructure project not
6 specifically authorized by law that—

7 (i) the Secretary determines, through
8 the completion of an appraisal investiga-
9 tion and feasibility study, would contribute
10 to a safe, adequate water supply for do-
11 mestic, agricultural, environmental, or mu-
12 nicipal and industrial use; and

13 (ii) is otherwise eligible for assistance
14 under this section.

15 (C) A new water infrastructure facility
16 project, including—

17 (i) a water conduit, pipeline, or canal;
18 and

19 (ii) pumping, power, and associated
20 facilities.

21 (D) A project for enhanced energy effi-
22 ciency in the operation of a water system.

23 (E) A project for accelerated repair and re-
24 placement of all, or a portion, of an aging water
25 distribution facility.

1 (F) A brackish or sea water desalination
2 project.

3 (G) Acquisition of real property or an in-
4 terest in real property for water storage, re-
5 claimed or recycled water, or wastewater, if the
6 acquisition is integral to a project described in
7 subparagraphs (A) through (F).

8 (H) A project to deliver water to wildlife
9 refuges.

10 (I) A combination of projects, each of
11 which is eligible under subparagraphs (A)
12 through (H), for which an eligible entity sub-
13 mits a single application.

14 (2) ACTIVITIES ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE.—
15 For the purposes of this section, an eligible activity
16 with respect to an eligible project under subsection
17 (a) includes the cost of—

18 (A) development-phase activities, including
19 planning, feasibility analysis, revenue fore-
20 casting, environmental review, permitting,
21 transaction costs, preliminary engineering and
22 design work, and other preconstruction activi-
23 ties;

24 (B) construction, reconstruction, rehabili-
25 tation, and replacement activities;

- 1 (C) the acquisition of real property (including water rights, land relating to the project, and improvements to land), environmental mitigation, construction contingencies, and acquisition of equipment;
- 2 (D) capitalized interest necessary to meet market requirements, reasonably required reserve funds, capital issuance expenses, and other carrying costs during construction;
- 3 (E) refinancing interim construction funding, long-term project obligations, or a secured loan, loan guarantee, or other credit enhancement made under this section;
- 4 (F) refinancing long-term project obligations or Federal credit instruments, if that refinancing provides additional funding capacity for the completion, enhancement, or expansion of any project selected for assistance under this Act;
- 5 (G) reimbursement or success payments to any public or private entity that achieves predetermined outcomes on a pay-for-performance or pay-for-success basis; and
- 6 (H) grants, loans, or credit enhancement for community development financial institu-

1 tions, green banks, and other financial inter-
2 mediaries providing ongoing finance for projects
3 that meet the purposes of this section.

4 **SEC. 5. FEASIBILITY STUDIES.**

5 As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment
6 of this Act, in compliance with all environmental and other
7 applicable laws, the Secretary of the Interior shall com-
8 plete all remaining feasibility studies associated with the
9 following projects:

10 (1) Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir, located in the
11 foothills of the Coast Range mountains west of Pat-
12 terson, California.

13 (2) San Luis Reservoir in the San Joaquin Val-
14 ley, California.

15 **SEC. 6. RURAL WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM REAUTHORIZA-
16 TION.**

17 The Rural Water Supply Act of 2006 (Public Law
18 109–451) is amended—

19 (1) in section 109(a) (43 U.S.C. 2408(a)), by
20 striking “2016” and inserting “2026”; and

21 (2) in section 110 (43 U.S.C. 2409), by striking
22 “2016” and inserting “2026”.

1 **SEC. 7. COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE FUNDING**
2 **OF WATER RECYCLING AND REUSE**
3 **PROJECTS.**

4 (a) COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE FUND-
5 ING OF WATER RECYCLING AND REUSE PROJECTS.—Sec-
6 tion 1602(f) of the Reclamation Wastewater and Ground-
7 water Study and Facilities Act (title XVI of Public Law
8 102–575; 43 U.S.C. 390h et seq.) is amended by striking
9 paragraphs (2) and (3) and inserting the following:

10 “(2) PRIORITY.—When funding projects under
11 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give funding pri-
12 ority to projects that meet one or more of the fol-
13 lowing criteria:

14 “(A) Projects that are likely to provide a
15 more reliable water supply for States and local
16 governments.

17 “(B) Projects that are likely to increase
18 the water management flexibility and reduce
19 impacts on environmental resources from
20 projects operated by Federal and State agen-
21 cies.

22 “(C) Projects that are regional in nature.

23 “(D) Projects with multiple stakeholders.

24 “(E) Projects that provide multiple bene-
25 fits, including water supply reliability, eco-sys-

1 tem benefits, groundwater management and en-
2 hancements, and water quality improvements.”.

3 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
4 1602(g) of the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater
5 Study and Facilities Act (title XVI of Public Law 102–
6 575; 43 U.S.C. 390h et seq.) is amended—

7 (1) by striking “\$50,000,000” and inserting
8 “\$500,000,000 through fiscal year 2025”; and

9 (2) by striking “if enacted appropriations legis-
10 lation designates funding to them by name,”.

11 (c) DURATION.—Section 4013 of the WIIN Act (Pub-
12 lic Law 114–332; 43 U.S.C. 390b note) is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and”;

14 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “4007,
15 4009(a), and 4009(c).” and inserting “4007 and
16 4009(a); and”

17 (3) by adding at the end the following:
18 “(3) section 4009(c).”.

19 (d) LIMITATION ON FUNDING.—Section 1631(d) of
20 the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and
21 Facilities Act (43 U.S.C. 390h–13(d)) is amended by
22 striking “\$20,000,000 (October 1996 prices)” and insert-
23 ing “\$30,000,000 (January 2019 prices)”.

1 **SEC. 8. WATER TECHNOLOGY AWARD PROGRAM AND IN-**2 **VESTMENT PROGRAMS.**

3 (a) AWARD PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—The Secretary
4 of the Interior, working through the Bureau of Reclama-
5 tion, shall establish a program to award prizes to eligible
6 persons described in subsection (b) for achievement in 1
7 or more of the following applications of water technology:

8 (1) Demonstration of desalination of brackish
9 or sea water with significantly less energy than com-
10 mercially available reverse osmosis technology.

11 (2) Demonstration of portable or modular de-
12 salination units that can process 1 to 5,000,000 gal-
13 lons per day that could be deployed for temporary
14 emergency uses in coastal communities or commu-
15 nities with brackish ground water supplies.

16 (3) Demonstration of significant advantages
17 over commercially available reverse osmosis tech-
18 nology as determined by the board established under
19 subsection (c).

20 (4) Reducing open water evaporation.

21 (5) Improving methods to treat and reuse agri-
22 cultural drainage waters.

23 (6) Reducing the loss of threatened and endan-
24 gered fish due to fish predation.

25 (7) Reducing the entrainment of fish larvae on
26 screens and intakes.

1 (b) ELIGIBLE PERSON.—An eligible person described
2 in this subsection is—

3 (1) an individual who is—

4 (A) a citizen or legal resident of the
5 United States; or

6 (B) a member of a group that includes
7 citizens or legal residents of the United States;

8 (2) an entity that is incorporated and maintains
9 its primary place of business in the United States;

10 or

11 (3) a public water agency.

12 (c) ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARD.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inter-
14 rior shall establish a board to administer the pro-
15 gram established under subsection (a).

16 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The board shall be com-
17 posed of not less than 15 and not more than 21
18 members appointed by the President, of whom—

19 (A) not less than 1 shall—

20 (i) be a representative of the interests
21 of academic, business, and nonprofit orga-
22 nizations; and

23 (ii) have expertise in—

24 (I) the field of water technology;

25 or

(II) administering award com-
petitions; and

3 (B) not less than 1 shall be—

4 (i) a representative of agricultural
5 water users;

(ii) a representative of municipal and
industrial water users;

(iii) a representative of the Bureau of Reclamation of the Department of the Interior; and

11 (iv) a representative of the National
12 Science Foundation.

13 (d) AWARDS.—Subject to the availability of appro-
14 priations, the board established under subsection (c) may
15 make awards under the program established under sub-
16 section (a) as follows:

17 (1) FINANCIAL PRIZE.—The board may hold a
18 financial award competition and award a financial
19 award in an amount determined before the com-
20 mencement of the competition to the first competitor
21 to meet such criteria as the board shall establish.

22 (2) RECOGNITION PRIZE.—

1 ment in 1 or more applications described in
2 subsection (a).

3 (B) NO FINANCIAL REMUNERATION.—An
4 award under this paragraph shall not include
5 any financial remuneration.

6 (C) NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVA-
7 TION MEDAL RECOMMENDATIONS.—For each
8 eligible person recognized under this paragraph,
9 the board shall recommend to the Secretary of
10 Commerce that the Secretary recommend to the
11 President under section 16(b) of the Stevenson-
12 Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15
13 U.S.C. 3711(b)) that the President award the
14 National Technology and Innovation Medal es-
15 tablished under section 16(a) of such Act to
16 such eligible person.

17 (e) ADMINISTRATION.—

18 (1) CONTRACTING.—The board established
19 under subsection (c) may contract with a private or-
20 ganization to administer a financial award competi-
21 tion described in subsection (d)(1).

22 (2) SOLICITATION OF FUNDS.—A member of
23 the board or any administering organization with
24 which the board has a contract under paragraph (1)
25 may solicit gifts from private and public entities to

1 be used for a financial award under subsection
2 (d)(1).

3 (3) LIMITATION ON PARTICIPATION OF DO-
4 NORS.—The board may allow a donor who is a pri-
5 vate person described in paragraph (2) to participate
6 in the determination of criteria for an award under
7 subsection (d), but such donor may not solely deter-
8 mine the criteria for such award.

9 (4) NO ADVANTAGE FOR DONATION.—A donor
10 who is a private person described in paragraph (3)
11 shall not be entitled to any special consideration or
12 advantage with respect to participation in a financial
13 award competition under subsection (d)(1).

14 (f) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.—The Federal Gov-
15 ernment may not acquire an intellectual property right in
16 any product or idea by virtue of the submission of such
17 product or idea in any competition under subsection
18 (d)(1).

19 (g) LIABILITY.—The board established under sub-
20 section (c) may require a competitor in a financial award
21 competition under subsection (d)(1) to waive liability
22 against the Federal Government for injuries and damages
23 that result from participation in such competition.

1 (h) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each year, the board estab-
2 lished under subsection (c) shall submit to Congress a re-
3 port on the program established under subsection (a).

4 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
6 appropriated sums for the program established
7 under subsection (a) as follows:

8 (A) For administration of prize competi-
9 tions under subsection (d), \$750,000 for each
10 fiscal year.

11 (B) For the awarding of a financial prize
12 award under subsection (d)(1), in addition to
13 any amounts received under subsection (e)(2),
14 \$2,000,000 for each fiscal year.

15 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pur-
16 suant to the authorization of appropriations under
17 paragraph (1) shall remain available until expended.

18 (j) WATER TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PROGRAM
19 ESTABLISHED.—The Secretary of the Interior, working
20 through the Bureau of Reclamation, shall establish a pro-
21 gram, pursuant to the Reclamation Wastewater and
22 Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (title XVI of Public
23 Law 102–575), the Water Desalination Act of 1996 (Pub-
24 lic Law 104–298), and other applicable laws, to promote
25 the expanded use of technology for improving availability

1 and resiliency of water supplies and power deliveries,

2 which shall include—

3 (1) investments to enable expanded and acceler-

4 ated deployment of desalination technology;

5 (2) investments to enable expanded and acceler-

6 ated use of recycled water; and

7 (3) investments that improve water manage-

8 ment, using best available science, and include real-

9 time monitoring of wildlife and water deliveries.

10 (k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There

11 are authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each fis-

12 cal year for the Secretary to carry out the purposes and

13 provisions of subsection (j). Funds made available under

14 this subsection shall be considered a nonreimbursable Fed-

15 eral expenditure and shall remain available until expended.

○